

# H<sub>2</sub>Orlando

A Regulatory E-Newsletter Published by the Orlando Regional Service Center

October 2006

## Rulemaking Seeks Water Storage, Quality Benefits for Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Lake Okeechobee, downstream watersheds

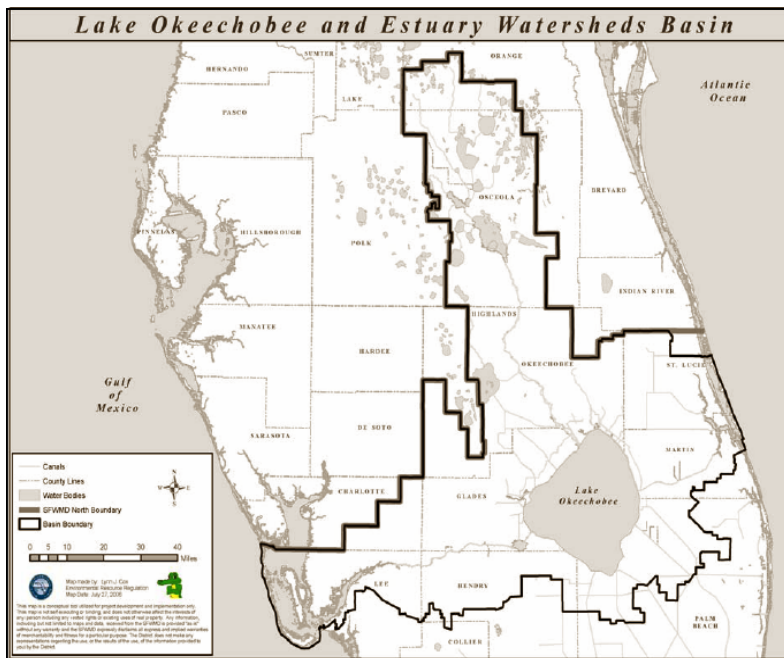
Extreme runoff to the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and its tributaries, high lake levels in Okeechobee and unnaturally high freshwater flows to the estuaries of the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers, created a need for action.

Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery — LOER — is the action plan to restore a more natural water flow and improve the health of the lakes and the estuaries.

The plan's list of construction projects includes efforts to store and clean water before it makes its way to the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries. The plan includes Best Management Practices for agricultural activities to address water quantity and quality problems.

Most important, however, to the communities at the north end of the system — Orlando, Kissimmee and St. Cloud — are the changes that

LOER creates in the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) process.



Revision of the Environmental Resource Permit rules will affect new development within the watershed flowing to Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers.

The South Florida Water Management District has launched rulemaking to strengthen the ERP criteria to mandate that new development hold more stormwater on site and treat that water to a greater extent.

A draft rule was published in August and a series of community workshops throughout the 16-county jurisdiction of the SFWMD created an opportunity for public comment.

Additional workshops are planned as the proposed rule takes shape. To view the draft rule, go to [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) search LOER, or contact Damon Meiers, Deputy Director, Environmental Resource Regulation De-

partment 800-432-2045, extension 6876. Damon's e-mail address is [dmeiers@sfwmd.gov](mailto:dmeiers@sfwmd.gov).

### Test your permitting IQ

Each edition of the H<sub>2</sub>Orlando includes a frequently asked Request for Additional Information (RAI) question. Test your skills by comparing your answer to the correct answer provided on Page 2.

#### RAI question:

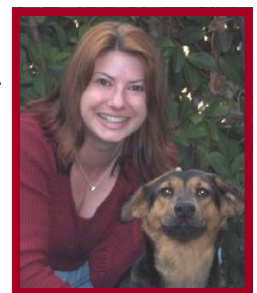
Wet Retention/Detention Ponds: SFWMD Criteria require that wet detention/retention ponds include an average minimum width of 100 feet for each 200 foot reach and a minimum surface area of 0.5 acres, as measured at the control elevation. How should this criteria be met?

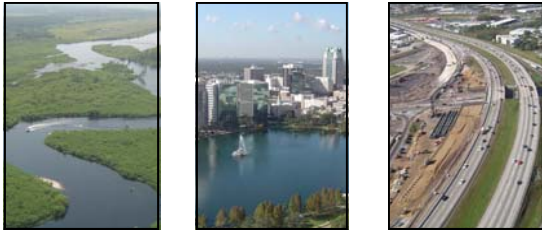
### Biologist Nicole Simotes Joins Orlando

As the newest member of the Orlando Service Center Team, Nicole Simotes brings years of resource protection experience and a love of the outdoors.

Nicole comes to the South Florida Water Management District from the St. Johns River WMD, where she worked in regulatory enforcement.

"I feel that with the development and rapid growth in our region, I am in a position to encourage intelligent and well-planned utilization of our natural resources."



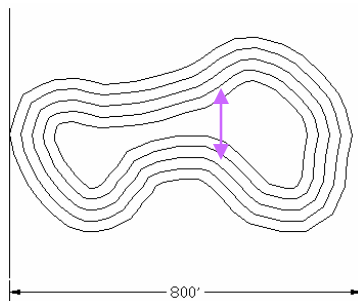


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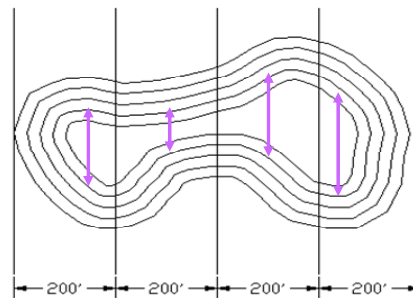
## Test Your Permitting IQ Continued from Page 1

### Wet Retention / Detention Ponds



This method of determining the average width of the pond is incorrect because there may be reaches of the pond greater than 200 feet in length that do not average 100 feet in width

This method of determining the average width of the pond is correct because it verifies that every 200-foot reach of the pond averages at least 100 feet wide.



## E-Permitting Flattens SFWMD's Regulatory World

The day is approaching when permit application submissions, RAIs and other regulatory matters will be handled through a series of keystrokes over the internet.

While nothing in cyber space can replace the value of a face-to-face meeting to work through a complicated project, the internet will speed plans to the agency and simplify research, noticing and other routine processes.

The first of four major modules was released in August 2005; Application/Permit

Search tool. The most recent release was in *November 2005*; Noticing Search tool and Subscriptions. In *2006* the application Submittal and Compliance modules will be delivered.

First-time users must register to get an account. Existing users can access any of the ePermitting features like Subscriptions, Profile Management, etc. by logging in. Either action can be initiated by the Login link found in the top navigation bar.

To get registered, go to

[my.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting/Register.do](http://my.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting/Register.do).



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